



SAGA SNIPPETS

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065

TEL 031-562-9951 FAX 086-553-9615
EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA

The Top 2 Myths about Self-Defense for Seniors

by Wendy LaFever
Friday, April 1, 2016

There are a lot of strange tropes floating around in American popular culture about self-defense, many of which are so counterintuitive that it's often difficult to know where to start when refuting them. Recent reports that more and more seniors are taking interest in armed self-defense prove that whether you yourself are entering the world of retirement and grandkids, or have relatives who are, the right to defend yourself against criminal acts doesn't expire when you cash in your 401 (k). Here are the top two myths about self-defense for an aging population...along with the facts.

Myth 1: Senior citizens rarely need to defend themselves against significant threats.

One of the most famous regular columns featured in NRA Publications is "The Armed Citizen." These are reports of regular people defending themselves against criminal attack culled from local news sources around the country. Because this is such a common occurrence, it's impossible for us to print all such reports, but the archives are certainly instructive. Merely reviewing "Armed Citizen" columns for the last few weeks gave us four instances of senior citizens defending themselves with firearms.

Keep in mind that these are only reports in which the victim's age was listed in the local report—

they aren't always. Furthermore, the astute reader will note that 75 percent of these incidents were resolved without any injury to the criminal. It's quite common for innocent citizens who have deterred an attack with no shots fired to not report the incident to the police, so it's likely that there are far more such occurrences than the news would reflect.

Finally, remember that predators prefer easy targets. Seniors are particularly at risk because not only are they seen as being weaker physically, but living on a fixed income often means that they are financially unable to move away from high-crime areas.

Myth 2: Firearms don't give senior citizens an advantage during a criminal attack.

The myth here is that senior citizens are simply unable to use a firearm effectively due to physical problems related to aging. Although it's true that as we age we can expect a certain decrease in our eyesight and reaction times, the extent to which it happens varies on an individual basis...and as with any other skill, the more time you spend shooting, the less the skill will degrade. Jerry Miculek, possibly the greatest shooter of all time, is 61 years old. Ed McGivern set a world record in shooting at 59. And on a personal note, up until five years before his passing at the age of 88, my grandfather continued to regularly win state and local skeet

championships, besting men and women a third his age.

However, the above is really the answer to the wrong question. The right question is "What else besides a firearm gives an elderly person any kind of a fair chance against a younger, more physically powerful aggressor?"

A third point to consider is that the vast majority—up to 98 percent, according to *More Guns, Less Crime* author John Lott—of armed-citizen events end without a shot being fired. For many criminals, the mere sight of a gun reminds them of urgent business the next county over.

All law-abiding citizens, regardless of their age, race, gender or income, have the same right to defend themselves against criminal attack. With the proper training in safe firearm use, situational awareness and a personal security strategy, self-defense is no myth... it's a reality.

From: http://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2016/4/1/the-top-2-myths-about-self-defense-for-seniors/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0416



HuntEx Feedback and Notice

HuntEx Gauteng

SAGA would like to thank everyone for their support at HuntEx 2016. Yet again it was a great success. We would like to thank Mr Abri van Vollenstee for assisting



us by doing our raffle draw, and congratulations to Mr Trevor Stiebel, from Dainfern, who won the Warthog V-SHARP® Classic II knife sharpener.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

HuntEx East Cape Hunter's Fair

The next HuntEx will take place in the Eastern Cape on 27 - 29 May 2016. It will be held at Mentors Country Estate, Jefferys Bay. SAGA will have a table and be available to answer questions, take in memberships (new and renewals) and have insignia for sale.

If you are in the area please come and introduce yourself.



SAGA is now on Facebook



SAGA is pleased to announce that we have launched our Facebook page. This launch coincided with HuntEx 2016 and we were able to use it for some giveaways which had a very good response.

We have had a great uptake to the profile and expect it to grow steadily.

To post on our page you need to be a friend. If you just want to read our page you don't have to join as a friend.

The link is:
<https://www.facebook.com/saga.saga.1865904>

We will be posting relevant materials as and when it becomes available. Please feel free to interact with us as well.

6 Cheap Tips To Secure Your Home Right Now

Extracted from :

http://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2016/3/19/6-cheap-tips-to-secure-your-home-right-now/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0316

by Suzi Harrington
Saturday, March 19, 2016

While there's much worry and fretting about the selection of just the "right" gun for home protection, too many families neglect other areas that are just as important—or maybe even more important! While it's good sense to have a plan in place to protect your family in case of a home invasion, it's even better to keep the bad guys out in the first place. From literally "hardening" the target with locks and security systems, to engaging in subterfuge to fool a potential criminal into passing your house to look for an easier target, having a bag of tricks is just as important as having a good quality defensive firearm at hand.

1. Look Cared-For

The average burglar looks for targets of opportunity. If a potential victim's house looks easy to break into, then he'll look at it more closely. Your first goal is to make sure your home looks like a tough nut to crack, and it's surprisingly easy to accomplish this. The first step is keeping a general appearance of being "lived in." Make sure the outside is neat and orderly: bushes trimmed around windows, mail and papers picked up, garden hose neatly stowed, yard presentable. If a potential thief sees this, chances are good he may move on.

2. Visible Security Systems

An obvious security system (cameras, signs, etc.) is a huge plus. Frequently, the mere appearance of a security system is enough...although it's better to have a real one that's activated and used, some homeowners find

that simply having a security sticker is a deterrent. In some parts of the country, security bars on windows and doors make sense, and obviously help keep burglars out.

3. Make Them Guess If You're Home

If you're not at home during the day, make them think you are. Leaving a TV on (or one of those "flickering light" gadgets imitating a TV), a radio or music playing may fool a burglar. Changing your blinds—up, down, halfway, etc.—from day to day shows someone may be home. (NB: If you have a blind open, make sure you're not showing off your new 50-inch flat-panel TV, jewelry sitting on a dresser or your alarm keypad!) If you're out at night, a few lights on around the house, a flickering TV and porch light on says "Hey, we're home"...even if you're not.

4. Monitor People Who Enter Your Home

If you have workmen in the house, monitor them, and keep valuables out of sight if possible. Limit their movement in the house and make it clear you're competent, have good locks on your doors, have an obvious alarm system and stay in control of things while you have strangers in your house. Don't look like easy prey.

5. Not Everyone With a Clipboard Is Legit

Don't assume that just because someone at your door is in a uniform, it means they're legitimate. Savvy burglars will dress like a city worker, cable installer, landscaper, and so on to go about their business unnoticed. Unless you've actually scheduled for work to be done, assume a guy claiming to be working in the neighborhood is suspicious. Ask for ID, don't volunteer information and if anything looks or sounds strange, it probably is. Listen to

your gut feelings— they're usually right! Before you let anyone in whom you're not expecting, call the company they claim to be from (use a phone book or Internet search to locate the number, not any paperwork they may have on hand), and verify their bona fides.

5. A Family's Best Friend

A dog is one of the best security devices there is. Burglars always say if they see evidence of a dog, they stay away. Even a small (but vocal) dog is good. Put "Beware of Dog" signs out anyway.

6. Lock Up Even When You're There

Lock your doors and windows when you're gone and when at home. If you leave windows slightly open for ventilation, make sure they can be secured in that position. Keep a bright flashlight next to your bed. Not only will it be useful should your power ever go out, it's also a big help in identifying potential burglars.

Final Thoughts

Keep in mind that you're simply trying to make your house less inviting. These tips won't necessarily stop a very determined burglar, but in almost every case, a common-sense set of precautions will cause the vast majority of them to move on to easier pickings. Another important point is that hardening your own personal awareness is just as important as hardening your home. It's critical to keep aware of what's going on around you, to have a plan—and the tools needed—in case something goes wrong, and to listen to and believe your gut feelings. Staying away from trouble is much easier than trying to claw your way out of a dangerous situation. Think ahead, and plan for the unexpected.

Never Enough - Australia

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20160415/never-enough-australias-gun-controllers-aim-for-more-restrictions>

Friday, April 15, 2016

Never Enough: Australia's Gun Controllers Aim for More Restrictions

Further proving that gun control supporters aren't satisfied with anything less than the elimination of private gun ownership, Australia's anti-gun activists have their sights set on further restricting access to firearms. This time, the gun controllers have taken issue with the importation and private ownership of a lever-action shotgun, and that some Australian gun owners have chosen to accumulate a number of firearms.

Last summer, we alerted readers to the political battle over the importation of the Adler Arms A-110, a 12-gauge lever-action shotgun with a magazine capacity of seven rounds. In July, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott moved to halt importation of the shotgun. However, after some political horse-trading, pro-gun lawmakers secured a deal that would lift the ban after one year, with the restriction set to expire August 7.

In the meantime, Adler importer Robert Nioa has been importing a version of the A-110 with a four-round magazine capacity, which is not subject to the temporary ban. Additionally, some enterprising firearms dealers are offering magazine extensions for the currently available A-110 that increases the

shotgun's capacity. So far, Australians have acquired roughly 7,500 A-110s. Predictably, gun control advocates, in particular the Australian Greens party, are incensed that civilians have access to these firearms.

Americans might reasonably wonder how a lever-action shotgun has engendered such controversy Down Under. In 1996, following a high-profile shooting in Port Arthur, Tasmania, the Australian federal government significantly restricted gun ownership. Despite the fact that the Port Arthur shooter used semi-automatic rifles, in addition to banning semi-automatic rifles the government also prohibited ownership of semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns. Those in possession of these types of shotguns at the time of the ban were forced to turn their firearms into the government for pre-determined compensation. Limited exceptions to the prohibition on semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns are available to those who can obtain a Category C license by proving they require the firearm for occupational purposes.

As the A-110 is neither a semi-automatic nor pump-action shotgun, it is available to those who possess the least restricted, Category A, firearms license. The process for acquiring a Category A firearms license is still onerous. For instance, the Victoria Category A license application contains probing questions about the applicant's medical history. Further, prospective gun owners are required to have "genuine reason" for owning a firearm; Australia



does not recognize self-defense as "genuine reason." Even with a license, individuals must obtain an additional permit to acquire a firearm in order to obtain a gun, and this process includes a 28-day waiting period.

Anti-gun officials and activists contend that the lever-action A-110 is similar in function to pump-action shotguns and therefore should at the "very least" require a Category C license to own. Rather than offering evidence suggesting that these firearm are particularly prone to misuse, gun control advocates have relied on emotional pleas and mischaracterizations. Gun opponents and the media have mischaracterized the importation of the A-110 and the expiration of the ban as a "weaken[ing]" or "watering down" of Australia's gun laws, despite the fact that Australia law does not ban lever-action shotguns. In one attempt to mislead the public, Australia's Herald Sun referred to the lever-action shotguns as "semi-automatic-style weapons."

The anti-gun position was accurately summarized by Liberal Democrat Senator for New South Wales David Leyonhjelm last summer, when he noted, "These firearms are not dangerous, they aren't used in crime, there's nothing about them that warrants any

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

.....Continued.....Australia

special action... Nonetheless, there are some people who don't like guns and they see this as the next area in which they can encroach."

Aside from the ongoing shotgun debate, Australian gun controllers appear to have recently discovered that some gun owners enjoy the shooting sports and exercising their rights enough to maintain multiple firearms. A website organized by NSW Greens MP David Shoebridge using public data, <http://www.toomanyguns.org/>, shows visitors the largest number of guns owned by a single person in various NSW zip codes. The Greens contend that a "loophole" in current law has allowed for gun owners to amass these "private arsenals." The supposed loophole? That gun owners can obtain multiple firearms citing the same "genuine reason." According to Shoebridge, "Anyone with five guns should be required to provide an exceptional reason to acquire more."

In an effort to alarm the public, Shoebridge told a media outlet, "These private arsenals represent a real threat to community safety." Further speculating, and placing blame for potential crimes on law-abiding gun owners rather than criminals, Shoebridge added, "They are honeypot targets for criminals who want to get their hands on potentially hundreds of guns in a single raid." However, as Sen. Leyonhjelm pointed out in a recent press release, "there is no correlation between the number of guns in various regions and their illegal use."

Further, Australian gun owners are already forced to contemplate potential thieves, as they are subject to strict rules regarding the storage of firearms. A document

produced by the NSW Police Force outlines that state's stringent requirements for storing even Category A firearms. It notes:

** When any firearm is not actually being used or carried, it must be stored in a locked receptacle of a type approved by the Commissioner of Police and that is constructed of hard wood or steel and not easily penetrable.*

** If the receptacle weighs less than 150 kilograms when empty, it must be fixed in order to prevent its easy removal.*

** The locks of such a receptacle must be of solid metal and be of a type approved by the Commissioner.*

** Any ammunition for the firearm must be stored in a locked container of a type approved by the Commissioner. Ammunition may be kept in the receptacle with the firearms, but must be kept in a separate locked container within the receptacle.*

Failure to meet these requirements is a serious offence with a fine of \$2200 or 12 months imprisonment, or both.

Moreover, the item makes clear, "It is a condition on a license that the licensee allows inspection by police of the safe keeping and storage facilities for the firearm at a mutually agreed time..."

Americans should take careful note of the ongoing gun control battle in Australia, as U.S. politicians have repeatedly used Australia's gun controls as a template for their own goals. During a speech on September 22, 2013, Barack Obama pointed to how the United Kingdom and Australia "mobilized and they changed"

following high-profile shootings, while pressing for new gun controls. In a June 2014 interview, while advocating for more gun restrictions, Obama noted, "A couple of decades ago, Australia had a mass shooting... And Australia just said, well, that's it, we're not seeing that again. And basically imposed very severe, tough gun laws."

More recently, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has endorsed Australia-style confiscation. During an October 2015 town hall meeting in Keene, N.H., Clinton was asked by an attendee about carrying out an Australia-style confiscation scheme in the U.S. In part of her response, Clinton stated, "I think it would be worth considering doing it on the national level if that could be arranged," later adding, "certainly the Australian example is worth looking at." To watch Clinton's entire endorsement of Australian gun controls, see the video at this link: <http://freebeacon.com/issues/clinton-australian-style-gun-control-worth-considering-for-us/>

Obama and Clinton's endorsements of Australia-style gun controls cuts through the typical anti-gun talking points to reveal their goal of eliminating the private ownership of entire classes of firearms. Of course, you can be sure that if U.S. gun controllers were ever able to enact a gun control regime similar to Australia's current system, just like Australia's gun control advocates, they would not cease their campaign against gun ownership until they achieve their goal of total civilian disarmament.